

The Cape Fear Rural Transportation Planning Organization serves as the intergovernmental organization for local elected officials, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and residents of Brunswick, Columbus, and Pender Counties to work cooperatively to address transportation issues.

Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) **Meeting Minutes**

August 16, 2024 • 9:00 AM

Cape Fear Council of Governments • Wilmington, NC

Voting Members Present

Frank Williams, Brunswick County
Mike Forte, Brunswick County
Mark Martin, Oak Island
Dave DeLong, St. James

Terry Mann, Whiteville
Garry Keaton, Sandyfield
Jerry Groves, Pender County
Hugh Cannady, Surf City

Others Present

Rich Alt, Southport
Jeff Winecoff, Boiling Spring Lakes
Mel Miller, Sandy Creek
Sabra Child, Sandy Creek
Trevor Carroll, NCDOT Div. 3
Michelle Howes, NCDOT Div. 3

Adrienne Cox, NCDOT Div. 3
Lee Jernigan, NCDOT Div. 6
Bill Hammond, NCDOT Div. 6
Philip Hart, NCDOT Div. 6
Hemal Shah, NCDOT TPD
Sam Boswell, Cape Fear RPO

I. START-UP

- 1. Call to Order** – RTAC Chair Frank Williams called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
- 2. Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance** – Mr. Jeff Winecoff led the group in an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. Roll Call** – RPO Staff took a roll call of all attendees.
- 4. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Statement** – Mr. Frank Williams read the ethics awareness statement.
- 5. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda** – There were no changes to the agenda. *Mr. Mike Forte made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Dave DeLong seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

Frank Williams, Yes
Mike Forte, Yes

Mark Martin, Yes
Dave DeLong, Yes

Terry Mann, Yes
Garry Keaton, Yes

Jerry Groves, Yes

Hugh Cannady, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Approval of Minutes** – The June 14, 2024 meeting minutes were considered. *Mr. Mike Forte made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Terry Mann seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

Frank Williams, Yes

Dave DeLong, Yes

Jerry Groves, Yes

Mike Forte, Yes

Terry Mann, Yes

Hugh Cannady, Yes

Mark Martin, Yes

Garry Keaton, Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Public Comment** – There were no comments from the public at this meeting.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

8. **Presentation: Cape Fear RPO P7.0 Regional Impact Local Input Points** – RPO Staff provided an overview of the draft local input point assignments for projects competing at the Regional Impact funding tier. These point assignments are the result of following the RPO’s Local Input Point Methodology as approved by the RTAC and NCDOT. The only deviation from the Methodology is to assign the final 81 points to H230501 (improvements to NC 87 in Boiling Spring Lakes) instead of to H183735 (widening NC 211; combination of H090806-A and H090806-C, which are both receiving points already).

RPO staff provided further clarification that local input points, when assigned to a project, essentially act as a “boost” to a given project’s P7.0 Score. In the Regional Impact tier, if the RPO assigns 100 points to a project (the maximum allowed), that will increase the project’s P7.0 score by 15 points. NCDOT can also assign up to 100 points on a project, adding another 15 points to the P7.0 score. This is because projects at the Regional Impact tier are 30% local input based. The remaining 70% is straight from the original P7.0 quantitative data score (which is why Regional scores are on a scale of 70 instead of 100). Once all local input points are assigned, available funding will be awarded to the projects with the highest total score.

9. **Public Comment** – The RTAC Chair opened the public hearing for members of the public to provide comments on the point assignments. There were no comments or questions from the public and the Chair closed the public hearing.

III. NEW BUSINESS

10. **P7.0 Regional Impact Local Input Points** – The P7.0 Regional Impact Local Input Point assignment window is from Tuesday, May 28th through Friday, August 30th. Cape Fear RPO staff, with assistance from NCDOT and RPO members, has evaluated projects according to the Local Input Point methodology approved by NCDOT and the RTAC in April 2024. *Mr. Mike Forte made a motion to approve the Regional Impact point assignments as presented. Mr. Dave DeLong seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

*Frank Williams, Yes
Mike Forte, Yes
Mark Martin, Yes*

*Dave DeLong, Yes
Terry Mann, Yes
Garry Keaton, Yes*

*Jerry Groves, Yes
Hugh Cannady, Yes*

The motion passed unanimously.

11. **Priorities of Existing Committed Projects** – As part of the development of the 2026-2035 Draft STIP, NCDOT is seeking input from Planning Organizations and Divisions on priorities of existing committed projects. These projects have previously been selected for funding through Prioritization cycles 3.0, 4.0, and 5.0. The input will be used to assist the STIP Unit when adjusting schedules to meet federal and state fiscal restraint requirements. The recommendation from the RTCC was to change the ranking of the two committed Division projects in Pender County and rank R-5900 ahead of R-5899 at the request of the Town of Surf City. *Mr. Hugh Cannady made a motion to approve the reranking of existing committed projects as presented. Mr. Jerry Groves seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

*Frank Williams, Yes
Mike Forte, Yes
Mark Martin, Yes*

*Dave DeLong, Yes
Terry Mann, Yes
Garry Keaton, Yes*

*Jerry Groves, Yes
Hugh Cannady, Yes*

The motion passed unanimously.

12. **Resolutions of Support: 5310 Grant Applications** – Monarch and Columbus County Transportation have requested resolutions of support for their applications for FTA Section 5310 grant funds. This program provides funding for the purpose of meeting the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities. *Mr. Terry Mann made a motion to approve the resolutions of support as presented. Mr. Mike Forte seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

*Frank Williams, Yes
Mike Forte, Yes
Mark Martin, Yes*

*Dave DeLong, Yes
Terry Mann, Yes
Garry Keaton, Yes*

*Jerry Groves, Yes
Hugh Cannady, Yes*

The motion passed unanimously.

13. **RTAC 2024 Meeting Calendar** – The Cape Fear RTAC is currently scheduled to meet on Friday, October 11th, however due to scheduling conflicts, RPO staff and the RTAC Chair have requested the meeting be rescheduled to Thursday, October 10th. *Mr. Terry Mann made a motion to approve the meeting schedule change. Mr. Dave DeLong seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.*

*Frank Williams, Yes
Mike Forte, Yes
Mark Martin, Yes*

*Dave DeLong, Yes
Terry Mann, Yes
Garry Keaton, Yes*

*Jerry Groves, Yes
Hugh Cannady, Yes*

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. REPORTS/UPDATES

14. Reports/Updates

- **Cape Fear RPO** – RPO Staff provided updates on the following:
 - Revisions to 2024-2033 STIP: These updates were provided in the agenda packet.
 - IMD Multimodal Planning Grant Awards: Oak Island and Southport were both awarded the planning grants they applied for earlier this spring. RPO staff assisted with both applications and the RTAC provided resolutions of support for both. Oak Island’s grant will be to develop a new Bicycle Transportation Plan and Southport’s is for a Project Acceleration Plan which will build upon its existing Pedestrian Plan.
 - Pender County CTP: The public survey for the CTP remains open until September 1st.
 - NCDOT’s Fall Litter Sweep will be from September 14th to 28th.
 - NCDOT’s Advance NC Transportation website – a new resource for the public to engage with to learn more about new approaches to transportation funding.
- **NC Ports (Port of Wilmington)** – There was no additional update by the Port.
- **NCDOT Ferry Division** – There was no update by the Ferry Division.
- **NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division (IMD)** – There was no update by IMD.
- **NCDOT Division 3 (Brunswick & Pender)** – Michelle Howes gave an update on Division 3 projects, as included in the agenda packet.
- **NCDOT Division 6 (Columbus)** – Philip Hart gave an update on Division 6 projects, as included in the agenda packet.
- **NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD)** – Hemal Shah provided TPD updates for CTPs across the RPO area, as included in the agenda packet.
- **NC Board of Transportation** – There was no update by the Board member.

V. OTHER

15. **Open Discussion** – Mr. Frank Williams expressed a desire to find ways to involve residents from portions of the RPO’s counties that are not within the RPO’s municipalities. For example,

this includes residents from the Waccamaw region of Brunswick County, which has no municipality established to represent residents. These large unincorporated areas are important stakeholders to involve in county-wide meetings when the RPO membership discusses items such as Prioritization project submittals.

Mr. Jeff Winecoff highlighted that the upcoming detours due to BR-0139 (bridge replacement on NC 133 near Funston) will only exacerbate the traffic issues on NC 87 through Boiling Spring Lakes, specifically at the intersection of Fifty Lakes Drive.

Multiple committee members emphasized the connected nature of transportation improvement projects; careful consideration is needed to ensure that projects do not have overwhelmingly adverse effects to other segments of the network. Whether this “domino effect” can be considered during Prioritization scoring is beyond the control of this committee, but it should still be accounted for in future project planning.

Mr. Frank Williams and Mr. Rich Alt discussed whether the RPO should have a legislative agenda to advocate for rural transportation issues in the region and across the state. RPO staff will follow up at the next RTAC meeting on the extent to which this matter can be addressed or pursued by the committee.

RPO staff reminded RTAC members that agenda packets can be mailed in advance of RTAC meetings upon request.

16. Adjourn – *The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.*

Approved by the RTAC at a regular meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2024.

Signed:



Frank Williams, RTAC Chair

Attest:



Sam Boswell, Secretary